

Seattle Human Rights Commission 2014 Workplan Update for First Half of 2014

[6.30.2014]

Issue	Commissioner(s)	Status
Immigrant Rights	*Alejandra Gonza Sarah Bishop Rich Stolz Naomi McMillen Andrea Negrete Nika Dahlbacka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tacoma Detention Center Hunger Strike <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ April 8, 2014 – Wrote a letter to Governor Jay Inslee and ICE Director Thomas Winkowski requesting action in support of hunger strikers at the Tacoma Northwest Detention Center. • Divestment Resolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On June 5, 2014 the SHRC passed a resolution calling on the City of Seattle to divest its funds from corporations that profit from immigrant detention; the Commission is currently finalizing the language of the resolution.
Food Rights	Marsha Mavunkel Catherine Moore Ethel Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 9, 2014 – Hosted a guest speaker who presented on the Beacon Food Forest project. • March 12, 2014 – Passed SHRC Resolution encouraging Washington State Department of Ecology to set FCR at the same rate as Oregon's (175 g/day using a risk level of 10^{-6}) to ensure all Washingtonians, even highest fish consumers, are protected in the free and equal exercise of our human rights to health and our own means of subsistence. • March 12, 2014 – Sent letter to the Director of Ecology urging her to propose a draft rule with a FCR no less than Oregon's and a risk level no higher than Oregon's. • March 28, 2014 – Sent letter to the Governor urging him to recommend a FCR no less than Oregon's and a risk level no higher than Oregon's. • June 18, 2014 – Hosted "Two Fish Too Many: The Implications of a Low Fish Consumption Rate", a panel presentation of 5 presenters that provided human rights, public health, and environmental justice perspectives on the FCR and risk level issues. Event drew approximately 60 attendees.
Police Accountability	*Nika Dahlbacka Catherine Moore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed Community Police Commission report recommendations on bias-free policing

	Alejandra Gonza Rich Stolz Anita Khandelwal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated input from homeless and low-income community members.
Homeless/Housing	Catherine Moore Nika Dahlbacka Alex Becker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convened Joint Commission Subcommittee on Homelessness. Outreached to Councilmember Bagshaw to express SHRC support for storage lockers for homeless people. Visited Quixote Village transitional housing complex in Olympia, WA. Attended “No Child Sleeps Outside” campaign meetings to learn about family homelessness. Facilitated SHRC involvement in public event to draw attention to unsheltered count of homeless in county.
Indigenous Peoples’ Day	Ethel Branch Sarah Bishop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 5, 2014 – SHRC hosted community members Matt Remle, Brenda Loew, and Ronald Cole Huntingbear who presented a resolution recommending that (1) the Mayor and City Council name the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples’ Day and (2) the Board of Directors of Seattle Public Schools mandate that City public schools teach about the history, culture, and governments of the indigenous peoples of Washington State, with special focus on those subjects on the second Monday in October. SHRC passed this resolution that same day. Pending in July, 2014 – SHRC will mail cover letters and copies of the resolution to the Mayor, City Council, and the BOD of SPS and issue a press release.
Appeals Panel	Marsha Mavunkel Jennifer Yogi Catherine Moore Naomi McMillen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with auditor’s office and SOCR multiple times on audit recommendations and findings Drafted and submitted SHRC response to audit Implemented Appeals checklist Instituted policy regarding 6 month rotation of Commissioners and mandatory Chair presence Instituted mandatory bi-annual trainings City Attorney’s office provided additional training on “adequacy” and “sufficiency” and “preponderance of the evidence” standard to full

		Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented on audit before City Council Collaborated with SOCR and City Auditor's office for final recommendations to City Council
Civil Rights Act 50th Anniversary	Catherine Moore Alex Becker Sarah Bishop	Planned Civil Rights Act Anniversary event in coordination with SOCR and community partners.
Budget	Catherine Moore Rich Stolz Alex Becker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafted letter to City Departments requesting budget alignment with human rights principles. Met with City staff to learn more about the budget process
Gender Equity	Marsha Mavunkel Alejandra Gonza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine SHRC's role and next steps. Regular reports received through SOCR.
Living Wage	Greg Ramirez Alex Becker Nika Dahlbacka	April 2014 – SHRC signed on to “\$15 for Seattle” statement of support.
City Center	Alex Becker	Attended CCI meeting to monitor progress.
Tiananmen Square Massacre Memorial Event at UW	Ethel Branch	Provided human rights speech re: Tiananmen Square Massacre.
State Legislation:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juvenile Records/Youth Opportunities Act 	Andrea Negrete	February 2014 – Wrote a letter to Senator Steve O'Ban and members of the Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee in support of HB 1651 (The Youth Opportunities Act) which was passed during this legislative session.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WA Trust Act: 	Andrea Negrete Rich Stolz Alejandra Gonza	The Washington Trust Act did not move in the Legislature, but there are plans to bring the proposed legislation back to the legislature in 2015, this time with stronger support from the House Democratic Leadership.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gun Safety 		March 12, 2014 – Passed resolution urging the Washington State Legislature to pass legislation to require criminal background checks on gun sales.

*Point person for work Group